

The list of High Unemployment Areas (HUAs) has been updated for Grant Year 2016. This list is updated twice a year; once prior to the qualification year and once during the qualification year as updated data becomes available from the Virginia Employment Commission. Previously, positions paying less than 175 percent of the federal minimum wage were not eligible for the JCG. However, an amendment to the statute now allows otherwise eligible businesses in high unemployment areas paying 150 percent of the federal minimum wage (\$10.88/hour) to receive grants. The current high unemployment area zones authorized by this provision are listed below.

2016 Enterprise Zone Grant Application	
High Unemployment Areas (HUA)	
Brunswick County 32B	Lancaster County (Kilmarnock) 50A, 50B
City of Danville 1, 57B	City of Martinsville 36B, 54B
Dickenson County (Clintwood & Haysi) 49A, 49B, 49C	Page County 30
City of Emporia 43B	City of Petersburg 10, 47A
City of Franklin 18A	Tazewell County 44
City of Hopewell 9	Wise County 52
<p><i>The following communities in joint zones are NOT HUAs: Dinwiddie County, Greenville County, Henry County, Isle of Wight County, Northumberland County, Pittsylvania County, Richmond County (Warsaw), Southampton County and Westmoreland County. Businesses in these communities are not eligible for the reduced wage threshold.</i></p> <p><i>Source: DHCD based on the LAUS Unit and Bureau of Labor Statistics 2015 Annual Virginia Unemployment Report.</i></p>	

Lancaster and Wise Counties are now considered HUA zones. Businesses in these zones are eligible to apply for the \$500/PFTE Job Creation Grant at the reduced wage rate threshold of 150% of the Federal Minimum Wage (FMW) or \$10.88 per hour.

The following localities are no longer considered HUA zones: The Cities of Covington and Galax, Greenville County, Halifax County, Henry County, Mecklenburg County (including LaCrosse and South Hill), Prince Edward County, Richmond County, and Smyth County. Businesses in these zones that have previously applied for the JCG as HUA applicants may continue to qualify for the \$500 grant at the reduced wage threshold of \$10.88/hour for the remainder of their 5-year grant period. However, **any new business applying for the JCG in these zones must pay a wage rate threshold of at least 175% of the FMW (\$12.69/hour) to be eligible for the grant.**

Any business applying as an HUA applicant must use form **EZ-JCG-HUA** and fill out the **JCG-HUA Worksheet**. These documents are specifically tailored to accommodate the reduced wage rate threshold.